

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] **1. Related Inventions Applications.** This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/775,206 filed February 1, 2001 which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/399,459 filed September 17, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,217,448 issued April 17, 2001, and which ~~claims priority to two provisional patent applications, Serial No. 60/101,051 filed September 18, 1998 and Serial No. 60/101,504 filed September 23, 1998, both entitled "CONTROLLER-BASED LINKED GAMING MACHINE BONUS SYSTEM."~~ benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/101,504 filed September 23, 1998 and Serial No. 60/101,051 filed September 18, 1998.